



New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association Wairarapa Branch Incorporated

Newsletter for **June 2024**

**Next general Meeting Wednesday 19 June
Kahutara Taxidermy 177 Pahautea Road 7:30 pm
(or meet 7:00 pm Parkvale Hall)**

General Meeting 19 June

We are going on a field trip for the June meeting with a visit to the Kahutara Taxidermy Museum at 177 Pahautea Road. Either meet at the museum at 7:30 pm or gather at the hall at 7 pm to car-pool.



Key Dates - Upcoming Trips and Events

19 JUNE GENERAL MEETING Kahutara Taxidermy Museum 177 Pahautea Road at 7:30 pm or meet at Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.

23 JUNE BRANCH CLAY TARGET COMPETITION Gladstone range. Starting at 11 am. Branch will pay for clays but you will need to **bring your own ammo as it will not be available for sale on the day**. Please note this **must be fibre wad**. King & Henry & Hunting & Fishing both sell it.

28 JUNE NZDA NATIONAL COMPETITION ENTRIES CLOSE See details and links to forms later in newsletter.

3 JULY COMMITTEE MEETING Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.

12–14 JULY 2024 NZDA NATIONAL CONFERENCE Lower Hutt Events Centre, Laings Road, Hutt Central, Wellington. This will include a **Hunting & Wildlife Expo on Saturday 13 July**, led by the team at NZDA Hutt Valley Branch. Thousands of hunters from across the country will be coming together for the Expo held at the Newly Opened Lower Hutt Events Centre.

The Expo will not only provide hunters around the Lower North Island to connect, get valuable information, and discounts from our exhibitors but also will introduce the non-hunting public to our sport and the NZDA. This is important because it allows us to showcase the valuable conservation role that hunters play in maintaining our environment and give people an easy introduction should they wish to learn to hunt themselves.

The Hunting and Wildlife Expo is a family friendly event and we encourage you to bring your little hunters and huntresses to enjoy the day. Entrance is a gold-coin donation that helps raise money for NZDA Hutt Valley.

For more details see [Hunting & Wildlife Expo | New Zealand Deerstalkers Association Inc](#)

18 JULY GENERAL MEETING Masterton Miniature Rifle Club, Cole Street starting at 7 pm. This is a **Thursday night** and replaces our July general meeting. \$15 for two cards. This is always a fun night and there are senior and junior trophies up for grabs so bring the kids along.



7 AUGUST COMMITTEE MEETING Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.

21 AUGUST GENERAL MEETING Open night at Hunting & Fishing Masterton. Details closer to the time.

11–19 MARCH 2025 BRANCH TRIP TO STEWART ISLAND Save the dates. Bookings for Kellys and Rakeahua blocks (see map in May newsletter). Room for up to 18 people departing Bluff. This trip will be subsidised for active members. Contact Lloyd on 027 6080325 if interested.



Recent Events

12 MAY FIREWOOD WORKING BEE

Really good turnout with 20+ members present on as fine Mothers' Day Sunday morning and over 50 m³ of wood cut and split. Thanks for the great support for our fundraiser.



15 MAY GENERAL MEETING

Our first attempt at a buy, sell & swap night. Lots of hunting chat, but not a lot of merchandise changed hands. Some items that were not sold are advertised later in newsletter.





Just a quick note to advise Sebastian is now closed until 28 June

News

PARKVALE HALL

Phone 022 323 6993 for hall bookings.

FINANCIALS

Current account balance \$17,851 with \$21,987 in term deposits. The branch bank account number for payments (firewood, etc) is 03-0687-0022096-00 but please note that this is not the account for payment of memberships – which go direct to National Office.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

No update this month. If you're interested in joining SAR, please contact Luke on 027 630 7640.

DEER PARK

Committee has drawn up a memorandum of understanding with Masterton District Council for expansion of the Deer Park. Once this is signed we will develop a project plan and seek grants for materials.

DOC LIAISON

Hut maintenance agreements for Sayers and Neill Forks Huts for next three years have now been signed.

FUNDRAISING

Firewood on hold for the winter.

HUTS

Mike Thrupp represents the branch at Greater Wellington Backcountry Network Inc meetings. Hamish Graham has been nominated by the branch to represent us with the Aorangi Restoration Trust.

MEMBERSHIPS

You should now have received your invoice from National Office. Prompt payment really helps us from an administration point of view. **Please ensure you pay the account number on the invoice not the branch account.**

RANGE & SHOOTING

Gladstone range is available for the use of members. Branch members get six free visits a year. **Hours for using the Gladstone range for visitors including Deerstalkers have now changed.** These are now **9:30 am to 1:00 pm on Sunday** unless you're accompanied by a Gladstone WPSSC member.

Please keep to these times to avoid disappointment as with new police regulations, Range Officers are required on active ranges even for casual shooting.

There is a Precision Rifle match booked on range 6 on the first Sunday of the month so late morning is recommended for that day unless you would like to join in with them which you are more than welcome to do.

NZDA NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

2024 Competition entry forms are now open and ready for your entries! All entries must be received by 5pm, Friday 28th June 2024. Entry forms are here: [National Competitions](#) | [New Zealand Deerstalkers Association Inc](#)

Antler Horn & Tusk National Competition
WIN A LIMITED EDITION MTNGEAR BIPOD
ENTER NOW

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION
ENTER NOW
BE IN TO WIN WITH SWAROVSKI OPTIK
SWAROVSKI

xtravel
Exceptional Experiences by Experts

Rebecca O'Neale
Travel Expert/Passionate Traveller

Mobile: +64 21 447 960
Email: becs@xtravel.co.nz
Website: www.xtravel.co.nz

Approved Travel Broker for Travel Managers Group

travel managers IATA

WAR ON WAPITI

Forest & Bird have agreed to pause (not stop) their legal proceedings, while they investigate alternative options outside of the courtroom to manage our wapiti in Fiordland. It is clear that this pause in proceedings comes after heavy criticism and pressure from politicians, practical conservationists, and passionate hunters alike. This pressure seems to have forced F&B to reevaluate their strategy. Here at the NZDA we fully back the herd management and conservation work led by FWF and its volunteers.

Though this is a positive step, it is important to note the legal action has only been paused, not withdrawn. As such we must remain vigilant. Consequently, the NZDA will continue to watch this closely because pressure remains on DOC and the Government to establish a Herd of Special Interest for our wapiti in Fiordland.

The NZDA is optimistic that commonsense will prevail and F&B will withdraw their legal proceedings entirely. This would allow good-faith conversations about conservation to be brought to the table. Time will tell whether our optimism is well placed or not. We wish our friends at FWF the best of luck for a positive outcome.

Prior to the agreement by Forest and Bird to pause their legal action against the Department of Conservation and the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation, NZDA filed a complaint with the Advertising Standards Authority against Forest and Bird. The purpose of the complaint was to seek clarification and supporting evidence for Forest and Bird's claim that "Forest & Bird is New Zealand's leading independent conservation organisation".

"I was surprised to see that claim across their marketing materials" said NZDA's Operations and Marketing Manager Hugh Devereux-Mack. "When comparing their online figures to the results of our recent member survey, the effort that recreational hunters contribute to conservation seems to be significantly more, which made me question how they could be so confident in their claims".

The recently completed NZDA 2023/24 membership survey sought to document the conservation work that their members have contributed to New Zealand's conservation efforts. It found that more than 50% of their 12,000 members had been involved with conservation activity including pest control, trapping, organised culls, habitat restoration, native planting projects, and hut/track maintenance work.

"It was remarkable to see that of the 1,052 survey respondents, 872 were involved in conservation activity and they directly accounted for more than 57,000 hours of work. When this is extended to our wider membership base, it shows that potentially our members contributed hundreds of thousands of hours of conservation work" said Devereux-Mack. "This figure of around 460,000 hours does not include any volunteer hours for fundraising which the NZDA does not do, nor does it include the hours that recreational hunters spend hunting game animals, though the number of animals harvested is also significant".

NZDA members harvested approximately 376,500 animals in the last 12 months with fallow deer (85k), and red deer (45k) being the most successfully hunted. As well as species that are considered pest animals such as goats (139k) and wallabies (61k). Pigs, rabbits, and small pests such as stoats and rats were also targeted.

NZDA President Craig Benbow said he was not surprised at the numbers saying "hunters spend as much time as they can hunting, see the nature of work needing doing and simply get on with doing it" "What needs to be recognised is that our conservation work is done at no cost to the taxpayer which is why partnerships with DOC and others are critical to maintaining a working relationship that benefits the country".

Devereux-Mack added that "although the NZDA is the largest non-profit membership organisation for hunters, our efforts do not include those of recreational hunters who are not members. The positive conservation impacts made by our members is only the tip of the iceberg meaning hunters need to be considered by the Minister for Conservation when making decisions around access and funding opportunities".

The NZDA employs three full-time employees and is totally member funded. We are incredibly proud of the work that our network of 48 branches, and passionate members do for the country and are always welcoming those who would like to get involved.





HUNTING PERMITS TO ALLOW HAND-HELD THERMAL

From June 1, hunters will be allowed to use hand-held thermal technology to search for animals during daylight hours on Department of Conservation land.

Thermal technology attached to a firearm to search for or shoot a wild animal, and/or hunting at night, remains prohibited.

Hand-held thermal technology has improved, become widely available and is increasingly used by hunters to improve the chances of detecting an animal. It can be especially useful in assisting hunters to locate downed animals, especially in dense foliage.

If you already have a hunting permit, it will automatically update.

You must still positively identify the target beyond all doubt using normal vision or conventional optics, for example, binoculars

Please ensure you follow the 7 rules of firearms safety and identify your target beyond all doubt before pulling the trigger.

Rule 4 – Identify your target beyond all doubt states “never shoot at sound, shape, movement or colour only”, hunters should never shoot solely based on a heat source.

Heat sources can be difficult to determine accurately due to environmental conditions for example, hot weather affecting the reliability of results. Trees or rocks warmed by the sun might show up. This is known as thermal crossover. There should also be consideration that there may be other people in the area such as hunters, trampers, campers, or contractors.

Once a heat source has been spotted, the hunter must use normal vision or conventional optics like binoculars, to identify what they are looking at. Can you see the whole animal? Is it a deer/pig/goat? Stag or Hind? Red/Sika/Fallow?

Visitor safety was carefully considered when making these changes, following discussions with the Land Safety Forum, which includes representatives from the NZ Police, hunting organisations like the Game Animal Council, and outdoor safety groups.



BETTER HUNTING WITH THE GAME ANIMAL COUNCIL

Better Hunting is free to access at www.betterhunting.nz and can be used on a laptop, tablet or phone. Courses can also be accessed offline through the free mobile app. The platform saves your progress as you go so you can dip in and out as often as you like. Just create an account and get learning. The Better Hunting platform includes 29 individual training modules and other useful resources for hunters such as a hunt planner, intentions form and multi-map tool. Just visit betterhunting.nz and access them all for free.



Northern Remutaka: Aerial 1080 Programme

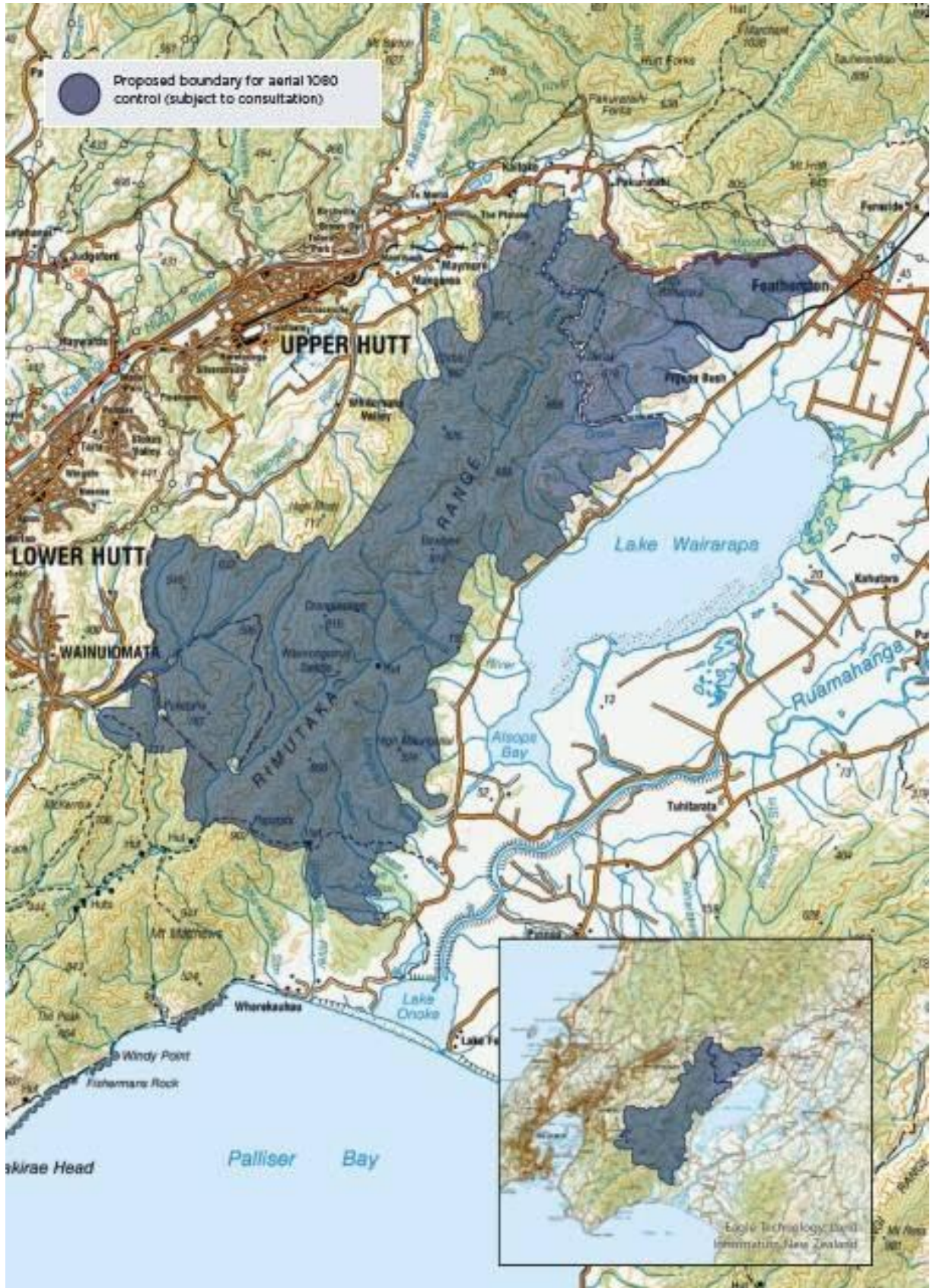
The pre-feed (non-toxic) phase of the Northern Remutaka aerial pest control operation was planned to be undertaken on Monday 20th May 2024 (weather permitting).

The operation is being carried out on behalf of TBfree for the purpose of enhancing biodiversity and eradicating bovine tuberculosis (TB) from New Zealand's farmed cattle and deer and wild animal populations.

The Northern Remutaka bovine TB control operation covers approximately 25,000 ha of DOC and private land adjacent to and within Pakuratahi & Remutaka Forests. You can access the Northern Remutaka Factsheet which includes a map of the treatment area here: <https://www.ospri.co.nz/tb-and-pest-control/aerial-operations/>

Pre-feed warning signs will be put in place to alert the public of the danger of falling non-toxic pellets.

The toxic phase of the operation will follow in 5-10 days (in a suitable fine weather window).





Hold on to your seats, because we have an exciting raffle to help you get around on your next hunting adventure!

The New Zealand Deerstalkers Association and the Hutt Valley Branch are thrilled to announce that we are giving away a brand-new GR Sport Double Cab Hilux 4x4!

Tickets are only \$25 and you can purchase them via the link below. All proceeds go towards supporting the NZDA and our work on behalf of our members.

The draw is open to everyone, members and non-members alike and there is no limit on the number of tickets you can purchase.

The raffle will be drawn at our Hunting and Wildlife Expo July 13th, but you do not need to attend in person to be eligible to win.

So what are you waiting for? Click the link below and get yourself in the draw!

[CLICK HERE TO BE IN TO WIN](#)

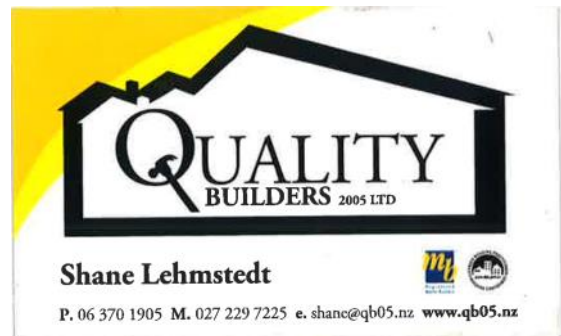
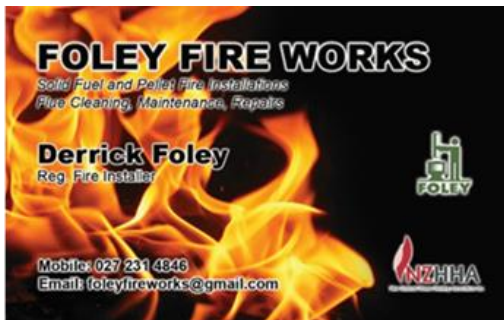
Official NZDA App



How to Get Started

Getting started is as simple as sighting in on a target. Just follow these steps:

1. **Download the App:** Visit the App Store or Google Play Store and search for "NZDA Membership App." Download and install the app on your smartphone.
2. **Log In:** Use your NZDA membership credentials to log in. If you need assistance with your login details, don't hesitate to reach out to us.
3. **Explore and Enjoy:** Once logged in, you're all set! Explore the app, discover the exciting discounts, and dive into the latest issue of our Hunting and Wildlife magazine.



Hunting Reports

Our newsletter story competition will be on again from October 2023 to September 2024 with a **prize of \$50 for the best newsletter story**. There were only three entries last year so hoping to do better in the next 12 months. Please send stories and photos to the newsletter editor at wairarapanzda@gmail.com.

Nothing submitted to share this month 😞

Buy, Sell, and Swap

If you have hunting or outdoor related items that you want to buy, sell, or swap, then we'll include these in the Newsletter free of charge (better than TradeMe). Send items (with picture if you wish) to wairarapanzda@gmail.com Or just bring your items along to our general meeting on 15 May!

CHAINSAW BAR OIL

20 litres for \$90. Selling at cost. Please contact Aidan on 027 432 3410

BROWNING .223

Ideal Wanganui fallow rifle. Browning bolt action .223 stainless with synthetic stock. Scott Traill suppressor and Leopold scope. Text Murry on 027 4515195. See picture in previous newsletter.

WAIRARAPA BRANCH SHIRTS

We have arranged to get some fancy Stoney Creek Corporate shirts printed with our branch logo. See the below link for shirt details and sizing.

<https://www.stoneycreek.co.nz/index.php?route=product/search&search=HMM-8206-TSC%20>

These can only be ordered by attendance at a general meeting at a cost of \$70 per shirt (pay via electronic transfer or cash on the night). We will submit orders every couple of months.

PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACONS

The four club PLBs purchased with a grant application from Trust House Wairarapa are available for hire for \$10 for a weekend or \$20 for 3-14 days. Contact Aidan on 027 432 3410.

THERMAL LTO TRACKER HD AND YUKON SIGHTLINE DIGITAL SIGHTS

Both items are very good and working phone Neil 021 0736162





2012 Honda MUV 700

- 3594 hrs
- Receipts for \$6396 done at 3535 hrs
- New top end
- New bottom end
- New torque converter
- New battery,Lh inner steering tie-rods,fuel pump
- \$9000 ono
- Heaps of tread.

Contact Mark 027 770 0065.



NZDA MERCHANDISE

<https://nzda.shop/collections/all>

Final Thoughts

Be safe be sure.
Assume it is a person not a deer.
No meat is better than no mate.
Identify your target.

Disclaimer: The contents of this Newsletter come from various sources, and the opinions or ideas expressed are not necessarily endorsed by this committee or by National Executive, nor may they reflect Branch policy.

Check us out on Facebook:  <https://www.facebook.com/WairarapaNZDA>

The Branch now has a Closed Facebook Group (open only to members). You can apply to join here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/798600664354866>

Our updated website is at: <http://www.wairarapanzda.org.nz/>. The website is managed by Nick Perkins.



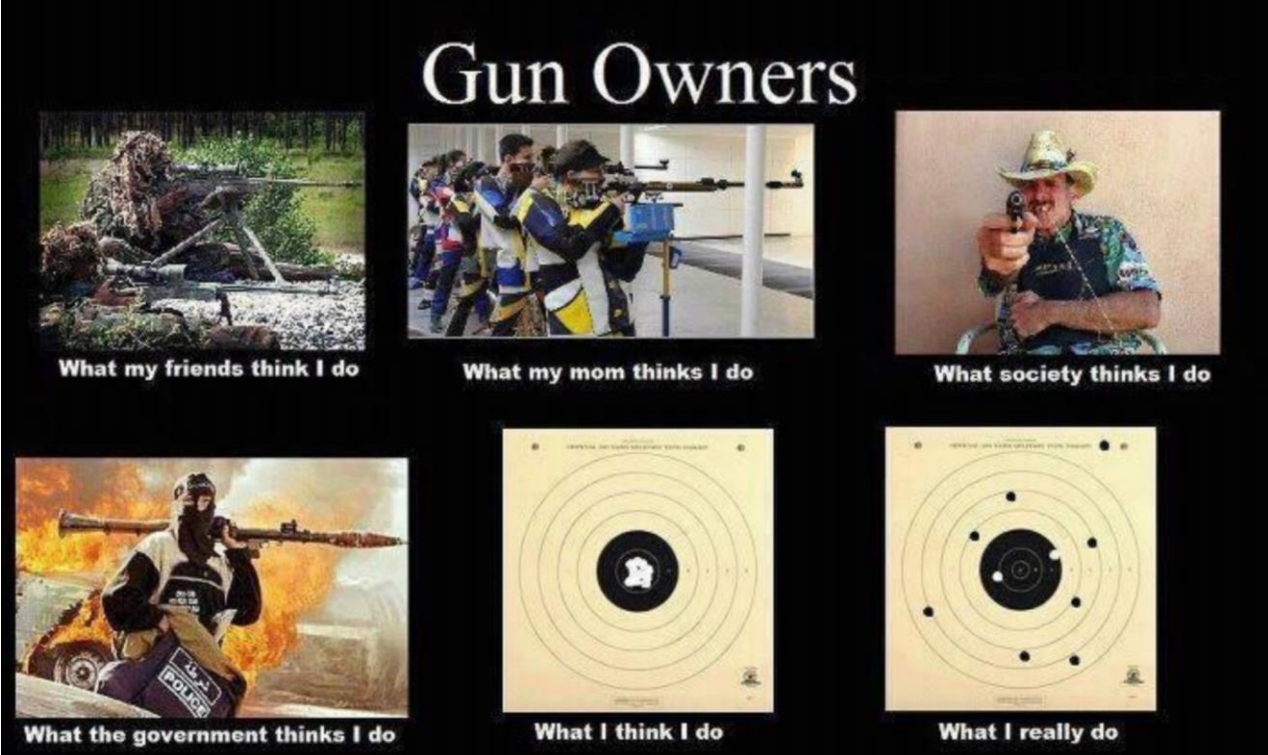
AMALGAMATED HELICOPTERS (NZ) Ltd
"Fly With Experience"

Jason Diedrichs
Director / Chief Pilot

EMAIL: amalgamatedheli@xtra.co.nz
WEB: www.amalgamatedheli.co.nz

625 Chester Road RD 1 Carterton New Zealand
Ph ++64 6 379 8600 Fax ++64 6 379 8759 Mobile 0274 428 790

Gun Owners



What my friends think I do

What my mom thinks I do

What society thinks I do

What the government thinks I do

What I think I do

What I really do